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Apanteles congregatus (Say) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae), a Newly Recorded Parasite of *Tolyte* sp. (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae)

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Apanteles congregatus (Say) is often mentioned in the literature as a parasite of the tomato hornworm, *Manduca quinquemaculata* (Hawthorn), and the tobacco hornworm, *M. sexta* (L.) (Gilmore, 1938). Krombein et al. (1979) list 15 species of Lepidoptera that *A. congregatus* is known to parasitize. These host species represent two families, Sphingidae and Noctuidae.

On 25 July 1994, a larva referable to the genus *Tolyte* (Lasiocampidae) was collected in the Horticulture Garden of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. 30 pupal cocoons of a braconid wasp were observed attached to the caterpillar's dorsal side; after death of the host animal, the cocoons were removed and held until the adult wasps emerged. Both larva and wasps were initially identified at the VPI&SU Insect Identification Lab, and subsequently referred to the Systematic Entomology Lab, USDA-ARS, for verification. The parasites were confirmed as *A. congregatus* and the larva as *Tolyte* (identification of these animals to species requires more information on life history and phenology than was available).

This is thought to be the first record of *A. congregatus* parasitizing a species of *Tolyte* or any member of

the Lasiocampidae. Further study is needed to determine the prevalence of this host-parasite relationship.

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